

Birmingham TreePeople Monthly Newsletter

Birmingham Roots



Planting, protecting, and promoting trees and the urban forest.

Birmingham Roots, Issue 03, 20/10/23



Birmingham Roots

Contents

2 **Features: A Word from The Chair | Upcoming Events**

Our Chair's featured words on the upcoming tree planting, the swirly snail trail event being held in Kingston Hill Local Park, and a reminder of the free training we run on Saturdays.

3 **Where have we been? BOSF Conference 2023**

7th October, BTP attended the Annual BOSF Conference, held at the MAC, amongst many other Friends and environmental groups.

6 **[Highbury Park Friends](#) Joint Session Flyer**

Conifer Identification Walk on 16th December, held at Highbury Park, with BTP & HPF.

7 **[Highgate Park](#) Community Trail | [Friends of Perry Park](#) Flyer**

A community walk with activities on 2nd November, and details of a regular litter picking in the park with the friend's group.

Features

A Word from The Chair



Tonia Clark

Tree planting plans are well underway for Newtown and Nechells for this winter. These have been funded by One Tree Planted and Trees for Cities. We are really pleased to be working with local communities and businesses on these planting programmes, but they are different to previous schemes. We've moved away from whip planting to planting fewer, larger trees. We think these trees stand a better chance of surviving, and it also gives us more places where we can plant trees. There will be more planting in the spring, but we feel this type of planting is the way forward for the city of Birmingham.



Upcoming Events

Free tree volunteer training on Saturday 21st October at 10am. This will be an online session on trees in planning applications and will be led by Simon Needle.

SWIRLY SNAIL TRAIL EVENT

in Kingston Hill Local Park

Find us near the Kingston Road entrance, Bordesley Green, B9 4JB

Tues 31 Oct, 12-3pm

- FUN TRAIL
- GAMES
- FREE LUNCH

Free family event. Everyone is welcome.
 ਮੁਫਤ ਪਰਿਵਾਰਕ ਸਮਾਗਮ. ਸਾਰਿਆਂ ਦਾ ਸੁਆਗਤ ਹੈ।
 استقبال ہے۔ مفت فیملی ایونٹ۔ سب کا
 বিনামূল্যে পারিবারিক অনুষ্ঠান। সবাইকে স্বাগতম。
 به رایگان کورنی پیپنه. هر خوک
 مرحب به. حدث عائلي مجاني. الجميع
 Darmowa impreza rodzinna. Wszyscy są mile widziani.
 Dhacdada qoyska ee bilaashka ah. Qof walba waa la soo
 dhaweynayaa.



Click the link

[here](#)

to contact us!

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Where have we been?

BOSF Conference 2023

Saturday 7th October saw [Birmingham TreePeople \(BTP\)](#) attend the Annual Birmingham Open Spaces Forum ([BOSF](#)) Conference, held at the Midlands Arts Centre ([MAC](#)), amongst many other Friends and environmental groups. The aim of these yearly gatherings is to update and thank the various volunteer groups, for their committed work throughout Birmingham.

After a short introduction by Emma Woolf, introducing us to the BOSF Trustees old and new, and a general safety announcement, [Councillor Majid Mahmood](#) gave his speech. The [Cabinet Member for the Environment](#) thanked the devoted non-profits for the 24,000 days of [volunteering](#) provided to the city. This is no mere feat, as he goes on to explain, as these days equal over a million pounds of investment back into green spaces and urban forests.

Darren Share, attending his last conference as [BCC](#) Head of Parks, followed Councillor Mahmood's talk by urging the importance of links to nature and green spaces. BTP helped the city gain the status of [Tree City of the World](#) back in 2019, that's why Share could comfortably state that Birmingham is ahead of any other UK city in terms of the urban forest. He stated he has travelled extensively around the UK, but nowhere has the volunteering network and partnerships that this metropolis has. Raising the profile of our work can only help us create and preserve more green space.



Councillor Mahmood thanking the volunteers

The Greater Good of Green Spaces

Individual members of groups within the audience had the chance to participate in a question-and-answer session, with Councillor Mahmood and Share. The former was enlightening, informing us the Council would like this to be “the city of a thousand parks”, improving the mental health and wellbeing of local residents. Alternatively, the unfortunate austerity bought about by budget cuts impacted on Birmingham's 631 parks (two of these the largest in the country) in different ways, some worse than others, and those smaller parks need some extra help – especially with fly-tipping.

A keen spectator asked: “How can what we are doing be seen in a wider context of benefitting the city?” Share rightly pointed out that the research garnered from the work we do speaks for itself, as well as informing the Council, and Mahmood highlighted the clear link between mental and physical health and open spaces. If dialogue can be created between the groups, the city, and public ...



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BOSF Conference 2023: Continued



Save Birmingham at the BOSF Conference 2023. Everyone holding up the leaflets for a photo with Jeevan. Click [here](#) to see their version of the photo on Instagram!

upcoming Nechells and Newtown [tree planting](#).

Mac also added onto the health and social aspect of the [Tree Trails](#), proclaiming the evident nature of the walks being inherently healthy for the mind and body, making the Friends' trails perfect for green prescriptions. The more trees the walk has, the more steps per trail or from tree to tree, the inclusion of hills and gradients – they all contribute towards this concept. With this concept in mind, Mac, also a representative of the Friends of Brunswick Park, highlighted their new Tree Trail 'The Newbs', focusing on newly planted trees.

health – with social or 'green' prescribing starting to take off – a connection between us and nature can be further established. This will build upon the current projects and achievements of the passionate volunteers.

“Parks play a wider role than just being fun.”
– Mahmood

Jeevan Jones, of the [Save Birmingham](#) campaign, gave a presentation highlighting their intentions of registering assets of community value. This will help communities protect and provide green spaces, or other environmental features and buildings, for the years to come. They will do this by finding out what the residents care about around their wards, to register assets – through consultation with Commissioners if possible – of community value. BOSF have recently joined the Save Birmingham campaign.

The Friends of the Parks Tree Trails, with BTP

After the 'Just A Minute' updates with representatives of each group, Ian (Mac) McDermott opened the Birmingham TreePeople [Tree Trails](#) presentation with the usual injection of humour. He delved into the background of [BTP](#): our status as Tree City, being the largest [volunteer network](#) in the country, having a primary hand in the [Urban Forest Master Plan](#), and a Call-To-Action for volunteers for the [Street Tree Survey](#) and our

Deanne Brettle, BTP Trustee and [BIFoR](#) Project Manager, explained the ease of access and change for mapping the trees for each trail, using TreePlotter. The software ensures that users will need a mobile and internet connection, and digitising the walks guarantees more information can be encoded through each plot point, including images of different seasons.



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BOSF Conference 2023: Continued

Split Sessions: Bird Walk & Social Prescribing

After a second round of 'Just A Minute', and a fruitful networking lunch with trail enquiries, the tree congregation parted into two halves to attend the afternoon workshops. The Bird Walk, ran by Natalie of RSPB, gave a riveting walk and talk about the local birds around Cannon Hill Park, whilst Emma directed an indoor session probing into more health and social prescribing.

It was noted that our environmental groups have been green prescribing before it was even 'a thing', but despite the struggles with approaching social prescribing, it's certainly the way forward. Pond dipping, bird walks, wood walks, tree trails, planting, surveying; any and all of these outdoor activities can contribute positively towards mental health and wellbeing. It can even function as preventative, it tackles anxiety, it improves mindfulness and connection.

BTP intend to develop this idea of green prescriptions further, using the knowledge gained from the conference, by emphasising the extensive effort of the Friends' and their Tree Trails. Developing these walks and providing them online would be a skilled and straightforward way to access them.



The group of bird walkers, of which Ian of BTP, Jill of Friends of Brunswick, Natalie of Friends of Handsworth, and Helen of BOSF (pictured bottom left) were members, enjoying the afternoon.

Final Words

Big thanks to Mary and Emma of BOSF, who hosted the conference confidently despite absences, making sure the groups know the BOSF Coffee Afternoon will take place on 7th November in Eco Building. As it creeps closer to Christmas, the BOSF Christmas Event will be at the Council House on December 12th. Thank you to all the inspiring volunteers and charities who continue to make Birmingham a better place.

Groups in attendance were [The Friends of Cannon Hill](#), [Handsworth](#), [Ley Hill](#), [Selly Oak](#), [Swanshurst Parks](#) and [Bartley Reservoir](#), as well as [Ampersand Project](#), [Birmingham and Solihul Mental Health Trust](#), [Fields Millenium Trust](#), [Hill Hook Nature Reserve](#), [Moseley in Bloom](#), [Northfield Environmental Forum](#), [RSPB](#), [Save Birmingham](#), [Seedcorn Fund](#), [Springfield Project](#), [Warm Earth](#).

[Apologies if your group has been missed; this is not intentional. Please [contact us](#) to add a group name if you'd like to be credited.]



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Birmingham
TreePeople



HIGHBURY
PARK
Friends

Joint Training Session

Saturday 16th December 10am

Conifer Identification Walk

Shutlock Lane Car Park

Held at Highbury Park

with [BTP](#) & [HPF](#)

[What3Words:](#)

into.under.having.



Some of the trail will be off the path,
through uneven grass.

Make sure you wrap up warm!

The event is free and open to all.

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FOPPS CONDUCTED OUR REGULAR LITTER PICK IN PERRY PARK. THE WEATHER WAS KIND AND WE HAD TWO NEW VOLUNTEERS JOIN US.. PHOTO BELOW. NOT POSING.

PLUS AN EVENING PRIMROSE PLANT WAS FOUND GROWING IN THE PARK.

12 BAGS OF RUBBISH IN TOTAL COLLECTED 17/9/23.



Photos by Valerie Edkins September 2023.

Highgate Community Trail Wednesday 1st Nov

12 noon - 3pm **Free**

Fun Trail around Highgate,
5 venues, 9 activities



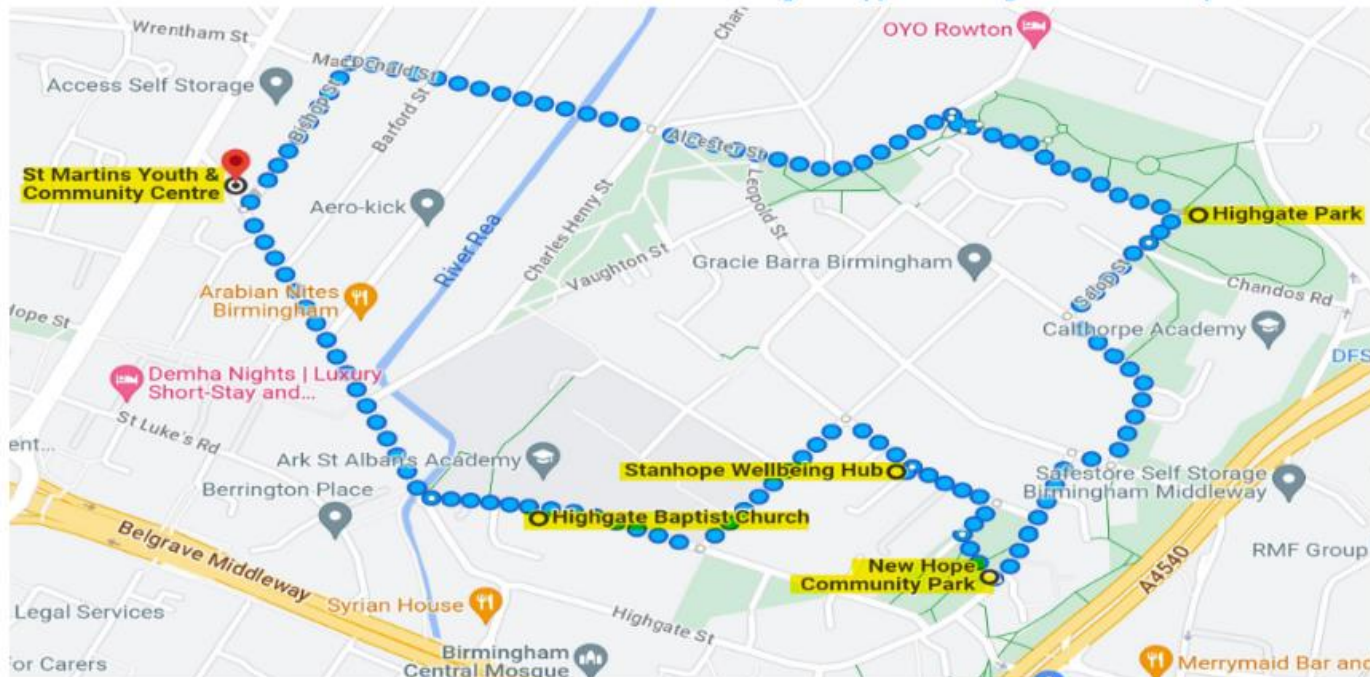
Visit in any order between 12-3pm: Highgate Park, New Hope Community Park, St Martins Youth Centre, Stanhope Wellbeing Hub & Community Garden, Highgate Baptist Church.

ENJOY: following a map, fun activities, food and refreshments, collecting useful local information. Get stickers and a badge! **ALL FREE!**
(Plenty of indoor / undercover space if poor weather & toilets.)



Highgate Community Trail Map for Wednesday 1st November between 12 noon and 3pm

FREE - Local - Food - Fun - Exercise - Nature - Learning - Support - Laughter - Friendship - FREE



ON OFFER ROUND THE TRAIL:

St Martins Youth Centre, Gooch Street, B5 7HE – games, sport & snacks. **Highgate Park**, B12 0XE – walking & nature activities with LegacyWM and The Patchwork Meadow. **Highgate Baptist Church**, Conybere Street, B12 0YL – hot food, info & more. **New Hope Community Park** – fun & games for children with TAWS. **Stanhope Wellbeing Hub**, Ketley Croft, B12 0XG – food, chatter & relax. Also at Stanhope Wellbeing Hub: **Age UK** – info & guidance, **Pacha House**: health & wellbeing AND in the community Garden: **Compost Connection** – all about worms & wormery making. 😊

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